

female, May 1940, Yumbel, prov. Bio-Bío; AMNH 147277, adult female, 8 October 1917, Tofo, prov. Elqui; AMNH 113470, adult female, 30 January 1911, Temuco, prov. Cautín; AMNH 175830, adult male, 22 November 1923, Valle de Los Piuquenes, prov. Los Andes; BMNH 1855.12.19.241 (holotype), adult male, prov. Valparaíso; BMNH 1890.2.18.150, adult male, June 1864, prov. Santiago; BMNH 1890.2.18.151, adult male, December 1865, Santiago; BMNH 1890.2.18.152, adult female, Santiago; BMNH 1890.2.18.154, adult female, 1875, Cordillera de Santiago; BMNH 1935.10.21.297, adult female, 12 January 193, Batuco, prov. Chacabuco; BMNH 1880.8.3.37, adult female, June 1879, prov. Elqui; BMNH 1905.4.12.19, adult female, 28 September 1904, Maquehue, Temuco, prov. Cautín; BMNH 1908.11.19.19, adult female, 18 June 1906, prov. Cautín; MCZ 287499, adult female, 7 September 1943, Concón, prov. Valparaíso; MCZ 287500, adult male, 22 August 1943, Reñaca, prov. Valparaíso; MCZ 287498, adult male, 15 November 1940, Los Valdés, prov. Cordillera; MCZ 287496, adult female, August 1933, San Bernardo, prov. Maipo; MCZ 287497, adult male, 26 July 1936, San Bernardo, Santiago; MCZ 18090, juvenile, Santiago; MCZ 97184, adult female, 24 August 1924, prov. Malleco; MCZ 96225, adult female, May 1923, San Francisco de Mostazal, prov. Cachapoal; MCZ 97183, immature male, 16 June 1924, Las Palmas, prov. Valparaíso; RMNH Cat. 1, adult male, November 1862, Santiago; RMNH Cat. 1, adult male, November 1862, Santiago; RSM 22279, adult male, 1 October 1929, Casa Blanca, prov. Valparaíso; SMF 76811, adult female, 6 November 1964, Barquito, prov. Chañaral, SMF 76812, adult male, 6 November 1964, Barquito, prov. Atacama; SMF 76810, adult female, 30 July 1939, El Caracol, prov. Concepción; ZMB uncatalogued, adult male, 1862, prov. Valdivia

Museum acronyms: AMNH = American Museum of Natural History, New York; BMNH = The Natural History Museum, Tring; MCZ = Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard; RMNH = Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden; RSM = Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh; SMF = Forschungsinstitut Senckenberg, Frankfurt am Main; ZMB = Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin.

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Further annotations and an addition to the avifauna of the Democratic Republic of Congo

by Paul Herroelen

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Since the publication of a previous paper with additions and annotations to the avifauna of the Democratic Republic of Congo (or Congo-Kinshasa, ex-Zaïre; hereafter DR Congo) (Demey *et al.* 2000), new data, principally concerning breeding and distribution, have come to light. These are based on field observations by myself (in 1950–1960) and correspondents, and examination of skins in the Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), Tervuren, and the Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique (IRSNB), Brussels, Belgium. The present paper also includes some records already published but apparently overlooked by major reference works. Some errors in the literature are corrected. Names of major towns and provinces used here are those in usage today and are identical to those used when the country was still Zaïre, except for the regions Bas-Zaïre, Haut-Zaïre and Shaba, which have recovered their pre-independence names and have become the

provinces Bas-Congo, Orientale and Katanga respectively. However, as in Demey *et al.* (2000), the names of smaller administrative divisions dating from colonial times (when provinces were divided into districts, subdivided into territories; see maps in Schouteden 1962, 1963a,b, 1965, 1968, 1971) have been retained for records from that period, in order to facilitate comparison with already-published data. Note that one of the four districts of Equateur province is also named Equateur. The abbreviation NP = National Park. Sequence and nomenclature mainly follow *The birds of Africa* (Brown *et al.* 1982, Urban *et al.* 1986, 1997, Fry *et al.* 1988, 2000, Keith *et al.* 1992).

Species accounts

LITTLE BITTERN *Ixobrychus minutus*

Two ringing recoveries in Zink (1961) were not mentioned by Brown *et al.* (1982): the first, ringed as a pullus in Czechoslovakia in 1944, was found at Liboli, Equateur, on 10 November 1947; the second, ringed as a pullus in Switzerland in 1952, was killed around 30 April 1953 in Kabinda territory, East Kasai.

FULVOUS WHISTLING DUCK *Dendrocygna bicolor*

On 28 April 1959 I. Mesmaekers (*in litt.* 1959) recorded a flock of *c.*40 at Mateba Island, Bas-Congo, and secured two specimens. The species was previously known only from northern Oriental province, North Kivu, South Kivu and Katanga, where it breeds (Verheyen 1953, Ruwet 1963, Schouteden 1963a, 1968).

YELLOW-BILLED DUCK *Anas undulata*

Breeding data: a young bird with primaries still growing collected in November 1942 at the Ishwa Plain, north of Lake Albert, Oriental province (Vrydagh 1949); ducklings of different ages in March and April, in Upemba NP, Katanga (Verheyen 1953). Brown *et al.* (1982) give no breeding data for DR Congo.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus caeruleus*

In Equateur province, common in the savanna of Ubangi district north of 03°30'N (Maes 1988, Dejaifve 1990, 1994a) but not in the southern part, nor in Equateur and Tshuapa districts (in the south-east to *c.*02°S). The distribution map in Brown *et al.* (1982) for the central Congo basin is based on three old records (two skins from Umangi, March–April 1899, and one undated sighting at Mbandaka in 1921, by Schouteden 1924). Since then the species has not been collected nor reported to the RMCA from southern Equateur, although it is one of the commonest raptors in the collection and would very probably have been collected if at all common in this region.

MARTIAL EAGLE *Polemaetus bellicosus*

The record of a vagrant on the distribution map in Brown *et al.* (1982) and in Schouteden (1961) should be corrected: the specimen (RMCA 64329, Bokote,

Equateur, February 1952) has been reidentified by M. Louette as a young Crowned Eagle *Stephanoaetus coronatus*.

CONGO SERPENT EAGLE *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*

According to Brown *et al.* (1982) this resident is believed not to breed in DR Congo, but Prigogine (1971) collected three juveniles (early July, mid August, mid December) in South Kivu and indicates January as the egg-laying month. RMCA holds seven more juveniles, obtained 20 November–21 March, from northern Oriental province (November–December), Tshuapa district and Mbandaka, Equateur (February–March) and Bolobo, Bandundu (December); an eighth specimen was collected near Mbandaka in early June. These dates are in the main rainy season of the central forest districts.

AFRICAN HARRIER HAWK *Polyboroides typus*

In Tshuapa district, Equateur, I found nests in late July 1950, early March 1951, early November 1951 and early November 1952. A nest found in late July 1954 near Lisafa, Equateur district, was constructed in a *Piptadenia africana* tree. In Ubangi district, V. Maes (in *litt.* 1978) found a (successful) nest that was placed in a *Bombax flammeum* tree (no date given). Brown *et al.* (1982) do not mention reproduction dates for DR Congo.

CHESTNUT-FLANKED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter castanilius*

Breeding data: in Tshuapa district, Equateur, I collected juveniles in January–March (four), on 28 April (one) and 9 June (one); also one obtained at Umangi, Mongala district, near the Congo River, on 8 May (RMCA). The main breeding period of this resident is January–April, i.e. the same months as African Goshawk *A. tachiro* (five specimens in RMCA). Breeding in DR Congo is not mentioned by Brown *et al.* (1982).

SHIKRA *Accipiter badius*

Breeding data: a nestling of the race *polyzonoides* found in Upemba NP, Katanga, on 9 October 1947 (Verheyen (1953)); copulation of the race *sphenurus* observed at Bokilio, Equateur, late January 1965, and two nestlings found there in March 1965 (V. Maes in *litt.* 1978). No breeding dates for DR Congo in Brown *et al.* (1982).

LESSER SPOTTED EAGLE *Aquila pomarina*

A subadult, fitted with a transmitter in Namibia in February 1994, flew over DR Congo's eastern rainforest in the first half of April that year (Meyburg *et al.* 2001). This constitutes the first proof of passage of this Palearctic raptor through DR Congo. It was mapped for the south-east of the country in Brown *et al.* (1982), probably on the basis of its occurrence in adjacent countries. It is known from Rwanda and Burundi (Vande weghe 1974, Gaugris *et al.* 1981).

WAHLBERG'S EAGLE *Aquila wahlbergi*

Ringed birds from southern Africa have been recorded on northbound passage, on 23 September 1979 (one, ringed on 17 December 1967 in Zimbabwe, shot near Mwenga, South Kivu: Oatley 1983), 18 April 1994 (one, ringed on 30 December 1992 in Transvaal, South Africa, captured at Kabongo, Katanga: Oatley 1994), and 22 and 27 April 1995 (an adult female, ringed on 2 January 1995 and fitted with a transmitter in Kruger NP, South Africa, recorded 39 km north-west of Kolwezi, Katanga, on 22 April and 93 km north-west of Kindu-port, Maniema, on 27th: Meyburg *et al.* 1995).

LONG-CRESTED EAGLE *Lophaetus occipitalis*

Breeding data: Vrydagh (1949) found a nest containing one young atop a large *Khaya* sp. tree at c.10 m, on the Ishwa Plain, Oriental province, in early March 1942. A juvenile unable to fly was brought to Prigogine (1953), at Lutunguru, North Kivu, in late December 1949. These records are not mentioned in Brown *et al.* (1982).

GREY KESTREL *Falco ardosiaceus*

In Equateur province, common in the savanna of Ubangi district and in woodland north of 03°N (Guissart 1976, Maes 1988, Dejaifve 1990, 1994a) but not in the southern part of the district, nor in Equateur and Tshuapa districts (in the south-east to c.02°S), where it was not reported prior to 1960. At Mbandaka I saw two on 28–29 March and one on 29 April 1952. Although no records were known from that area at the time or from the central Congo basin, Brown *et al.* (1982) map it for almost the entire country.

CRESTED GUINEAFOWL *Guttera pucherani*

In Equateur province, four clutches of 6, 6, 8 and 10 eggs respectively were found in Tshuapa district in August–October and January (Herroelen 1955), and very young birds in early February and early May. Urban *et al.* (1986) do not mention laying dates for DR Congo.

AFRICAN FINFOOT *Podica senegalensis*

In Equateur province, I collected nine young in Tshuapa and Equateur districts between mid December and mid April, indicating a breeding period in the second half of the high-water season. Four other juveniles (one June, three August: RMCA) may point to other reproduction months or represent replacement clutches. Reproduction of the finfoot in DR Congo has been known for many years and Chapin (1939, pl. VI, fig. 2) published a photograph of a downy young, obtained on 14 December 1930, but this evidence was not taken into account by Urban *et al.* (1986).

PIED AVOCET *Recurvirostra avosetta*

Data additional to those published by Demey *et al.* (2000): a female collected at Banana, Bas-Congo, on 20 December 1951 (RMCA) and one observed there in March 1955 by I. Mesmaekers (*in litt.* 1955); an unsexed bird collected at Gangalana-Bodio, Oriental province, in November 1956 (RMCA); two collected at Itula, South Kivu, on 20 April, and three recorded in the Rusizi Delta, South Kivu, on 20 October 1968 (Prigogine 1971).

BLACK-WINGED PRATINCOLE *Glareola nordmanni*

This migrant frequents open places in the forest belt; passage occurs in small groups (2–7 birds, rarely more) in September–October (earliest date 3 September 1950, latest 21 October 1959), but there are only three records for the return migration: 29 and 31 March 1938 Bambesa, Oriental province, 10 April 1955 Basankusu, Equateur, and 15 April 1952 Garamba NP, Oriental province (IRSNB).

WHITE-FRONTED PLOVER *Charadrius marginatus*

On sandbanks of the Congo River near Mbandaka, Equateur, I noted two adults with two full-grown juveniles in late August 1958 and one adult with two juveniles late April 1959. RMCA holds a very young bird obtained near Bokungu, Equateur, on 1 January 1954. The widely divergent reproduction dates are probably linked to the periodical availability of sandbanks. Urban *et al.* (1986) give no breeding data for the country.

LONG-TOED PLOVER *Vanellus crassirostris*

In March 1955 I. Mesmaekers collected a male of the form *leucoptera* at 'Cul de Boma', Bas-Congo, the first record for the coastal area (Schouteden 1955a). Previously this subspecies was known only from Katanga (Schouteden 1971).

TEMMINCK'S STINT *Calidris temminckii*

Additional records: Rusizi marshes, South Kivu, February 1952, six records; 3 March 1959, one (Curry-Lindahl 1960); Lake Edward, North Kivu, April 1952, three records; February 1959, three records; Kasalia, North Kivu, 15 January 1959, one (Curry-Lindahl 1961). In Equateur province singles were collected on 23 November 1958 near Mbandaka and 15 October 1960 at Bwamanda, Ubangi district (RMCA). A specimen from Buta, Oriental province, is erroneously mentioned by Lippens & Wille (1976) as taken on 18 April 1936; the correct date is 20 November 1939 (Schouteden 1963a; RMCA). A Temminck's Stint was indeed collected on 18 April 1936, but at Vitshumbi, North Kivu (Lippens 1938).

GREAT SNIPE *Gallinago media*

The correct date of a bird with a Russian ring, captured near Feshi, Bandundu, in 1957, is 23 January (file at the Ringing Scheme, Brussels), not 23 June (as mentioned by De Bont 1960).

GREY-HEADED GULL *Larus cirrocephalus*

Banana, Bas-Congo, 13 April 1953, one collected (RMCA). Previously known only from eastern DR Congo and Katanga (Curry-Lindahl 1961, Ruwet 1964, Schouteden 1971), and apparently rare along the Atlantic coast (I. Mesmaekers pers. comm.).

CASPIAN TERN *Sterna caspia*

Details of a third ringing recovery (mentioned by Herroelen 1986), are as follows: ringed as a pullus on 5 July 1960 at Eckerö, Åland, Finland (Helsinki 33449), and found dead on 20 November 1960 at Kouango, Equateur, distance 6,160 km (J. Ruoho *in litt.* 2001).

COMMON TERN *Sterna hirundo*

A bird ringed as a nestling in Norway in July 1997 was killed at Matadi, Bas-Congo, c.140 km from the Atlantic coast, on 18 December 1998 (Runde 2000). This constitutes the first record inland; all other specimens were collected at Banana, on the coast (Prigogine 1979).

AFRICAN SKIMMER *Rynchops flavirostris*

Breeding data, all from Equateur province: I collected a female with a large egg in the oviduct at Isenga, on the Ruki River, 1 May 1952. The same day I observed eight birds, apparently breeding, on two small sandy islands. In late July, I found four nests with, respectively, 3, 3, 3 and 4 incubated eggs on a sandbank in the Congo River near Yangala. Sixteen adults were present in the same area on 1 March 1958, but I found only one egg. Chapin (1939) mentions two nests with 2 and 3 eggs at Lukolela in March.

WHITE-NAPED PIGEON *Columba albinucha*

According to Urban *et al.* (1986) the downy young and nestling have not been described. A specimen of a young born at the Antwerp Zoo in 1966, which died at c.15 days (RMCA 114591), has dark brown body plumage, remiges and down feathers, and more blackish-brown rectrices. The cere is yellow-brown, the legs dirty yellow and claws blackish brown.

RED-EYED DOVE *Streptopelia semitorquata*

In the central Congo basin I observed song-flights in May–September and December–January; I collected two females with formed eggs in the oviduct early August 1957 and early September 1959, and downy young late May 1951 (69 g), late September 1950 (134 g) and mid October 1958. RMCA holds seven nestlings, from Kinshasa (June, one), Mbomo, near Bolobo, Bandundu (1 May, one; 1 June, one), Kisangani, Oriental province (mid June 1912, one) and Butembo, North Kivu (2 July, two; 1 February, one). According to Chapin (1939) the species nests in

September–October and December–February in Oriental province. Urban *et al.* (1986) do not mention laying dates for Congo.

EUROPEAN TURTLE DOVE *Streptopelia turtur*

A female was collected in Garamba NP, Oriental province, on 2 December 1951 (IRSNB 46952). This constitutes the sixth country record and the first in December. Previous records are listed by Louette (1988) and Demey *et al.* (2000).

EMERALD-SPOTTED WOOD DOVE *Turtur chalcospilos*

Breeding data (lacking for Congo in Fry *et al.* 1988): juveniles collected in Upemba NP, Katanga, in June (one), July (four), October (two) and November (one) (Verheyen 1953). Poelman (1967) described courtship behaviour of the male on the ground and obtained three juveniles (April, one; May, two) in the Kasapa area, Lubumbashi, Katanga.

BLUE-SPOTTED WOOD DOVE *Turtur afer*

Chapin (1939) located two nests, one at Faradje, Oriental province, in late January, a second at Lukolela, Equateur, in early March. The species breeds in the rains in Equateur province, from July to March, as proved by the following: a very young bird on 7 August 1931 at Lukolela (RMCA), two nests on 20 September and 6 November 1953 at Iyonda, containing one and two eggs respectively (G. Michielsens pers. comm.), a two-week old bird brought to me at Mbandaka on 26 November 1957, a young bird ready to fly received at Basankusu on 7 December 1953, adults carrying nest material in early October 1957, mid December 1950 and mid March 1952 at Mbandaka and two copulating pairs there on 22 January 1957. Urban *et al.* (1986) do not mention laying dates for Congo.

LEVAILLANT'S CUCKOO *Oxylophus levaillantii*

According to Chapin (1939) and Fry *et al.* (1988) lays April–October with young in May and October, but in Upemba NP, Katanga, Verheyen (1953) collected an egg-laying female on 12 February and stated that reproduction ends in March. RMCA holds two nestlings obtained at Kiambi, Katanga, in the period 27 April–3 May 1931 and a very young specimen collected on 13 May 1913 at Sanghi-Rusizi, South Kivu.

WHITE-FACED OWL *Otus leucotis*

In Equateur province, observed by V. Maes (*in litt.* 1993) at Gemena in 1956 and by Dejaifve (1990) at Bili on 20–21 January 1990. According to Jehl (1976) this owl is common around Kembé Island (04°36'N, 21°54'E), near Bangui, Central African Republic. In Snow (1978) the species is erroneously reported for Tshuapa district (an error repeated by Fry *et al.* 1988) and for Lukolela, quoted by Bouet (1961), but Chapin (1939) does not mention it.

FOREST WOOD-HOOPOE *Phoeniculus castaneiceps*

Fry *et al.* (1988) state this species was found in the area of the 'Ruki River' where 'Ikenge', c.60 km south-east of Mbandaka, Equateur, was mistaken for 'Ikengo', 26 km south-west of Mbandaka. The bird was collected there outside the forest, on 15 October 1953, by G. Michielsen (RMCA).

WHITE-CRESTED HORNBILL *Tockus albocristatus cassini*

Bare parts in adults (six males, five females): eyes cream or milky white, bill black, chin and throat patch pinkish, legs and feet greyish blue or pale slate, claws black; in another male (weight 290 g) irides greyish blue, bill white-tipped with a white line in front of the nostril. In a large nestling male, collected with the adult female, the eyes were whitish, circumorbital skin white, bill ivory white with a black patch below the nostril, distal half of lower mandible black, legs white, feet white tinged bluish, and claws black. In two other juveniles the bill was bicoloured black and white, or black with small white speckles. In a fourth the distal part of the bill was white over 22 mm on the upper mandible and 33 mm on the lower. Sexual dimorphism in size is confirmed in weight scores, both in adults and juveniles: four males 270–290 (283.8) g, 16 males 303–399 (312.4) g, four females 204–238 (223.5) g; juveniles: two males 240 and 287 g, two females 193 and 212 g. One adult female, captured on the nest with a large nestling, weighed 270 g and I was able to recover 50 g of body fat; 'she was well fed, actually fat' as previously stated in a similar record by Chapin (1939). The 310 g for males quoted by Kemp (1995) applies very well to the mean weight of the Congo subspecies.

Aside of grasshoppers, beetles and large caterpillars, I found in the stomachs a large spider, large ants, winged ants and seeds of a liana *Ancistrophyllum secundiflorum*.

BLACK DWARF HORNBILL *Tockus hartlaubi*

Two males were collected from within mixed-species bird flocks in February 1956 and March 1959 by my hunter Lokuli. The first flock contained a Bare-cheeked Trogon *Apaloderma aequatoriale*, a Yellow-spotted Barbet *Buccanodon duchaillui* and a Red-tailed Bristlebill *Bleda syndactylus*, and the second a Red-billed Dwarf Hornbill *Tockus camurus* and Sabine's Puffback *Dryoscopus sabini*. The habit of joining mixed-species flocks is not mentioned in Fry *et al.* (1988).

SLADEN'S BARBET *Gymnobucco sladeni*

Prior to my collecting one, I noted that the bird was the last of a party of c.20 Grey-throated Barbets *G. bonapartei* to depart a *Musanga cecropioides* tree for another one. It was perched silently and appeared less shy and slightly larger than the other barbets that had already left. Based on a small series of 13 males and five females, Sladen's Barbets weighed 48–59 (51.9) and 41–50 (45.8) g respectively, against 11 males 35–52 (43.9) and ten females 37–52 (43.3) g of Grey-throated Barbet. One male with enlarged testes had a small amount of fat on the throat and an identical

record was made in a female *G. bonapartei*. Besides seeds of *Musanga cecropioides*, I found in three stomachs of *G. sladeni* seeds of *Ficus* sp. and *Harungana madagascariensis*. For comparison, two stomachs of *G. bonapartei* held fruits of *Bridelia* sp. and a large ant *Camponotus maculatus*. I collected three juveniles of *G. sladeni* mid September in Tshuapa district, Equateur, and two others late May in the Mbandaka area, where 11 males had enlarged testes and active wing moult in January–August. Two females I took on 8 May at Bokeka, Equateur, were not in breeding condition, whilst two others collected on 11 March near Mbandaka had slightly enlarged ovaries and active wing moult.

GREY-BACKED SPARROW LARK *Eremopterix verticalis*

Occurrence not listed in Hall & Moreau (1970) nor in Keith *et al.* (1992), despite the 16 specimens having been taken near Moanda on the Atlantic coast (Schouteden 1954, 1957). RMCA holds a juvenile female obtained on 5 June 1954 at Kitona, indicating an egg-laying period in the second half of May.

MOSQUE SWALLOW *Hirundo senegalensis*

Two males were collected at Gemena and Bobito, Ubangi district, Equateur (Schouteden 1962a), where the species breeds April–September (V. Maes pers. obs.) and where Dejaifve (1990) recorded it in 1989–90. The distribution map in Keith *et al.* (1992) is in error, as the species was never collected nor recorded in the period 1930–60, being limited to Equateur and Tshuapa districts between 02°N and 02°S. An undated record from Eala, Equateur district (Schouteden 1924, 1955b, 1961) cannot be accepted due to possible confusion with Red-breasted Swallow *H. semirufa*.

RED-CHESTED SWALLOW *Hirundo lucida*

According to Keith *et al.* (1992) this swallow occurs along the Congo River, but Chapin (1953) ‘never noticed it at Lukolela’ nor did G. Michielsen (*in litt.* 1958) up to 1958 at Iyonda, Equateur, or myself in 1957–60 at Mbandaka. This species, which is restricted to the Kisangani area, Oriental province, is probably replaced by another species in the Kinshasa area.

YELLOW WAGTAIL *Motacilla flava*

A first-year collected on 12 August 1952 in ‘camp de l’Aru’, Oriental province (Schouteden 1963a), constitutes the earliest autumn date for the country. Normally the first autumn migrants are recorded in the second half of September (Schouteden 1963a).

GRASSLAND PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Breeding data: *A. n. lacuum* in North Kivu, early April a clutch of two eggs and breeding season February–July (Lippens & Wille 1976). A juvenile from Buta, Oriental province, was collected in February (Chapin 1953) and RMCA has 12

juveniles (December: two, January: one, April: two, May: two, June: one, July: one, September: one, and October: two), demonstrating that the species breeds in nearly all months. In *A. n. itombwensis* egg laying apparently starts February or March and breeding continues until April–May and July (Prigogine 1971 under *A. latistriatus*). In Prigogine (1981) Table 3 lists a juvenile from May and seven others from October–November.

LONG-BILLED PIPIT *Anthus similis*

Schouteden (1923) collected three at Macaco, West Kasai, and Chapin (1937) includes these ‘young examples’ in his account of *A. s. schoutedeni*, named as a new subspecies; the three juveniles were obtained on 26, 27 and 30 September 1921 and the eggs were probably laid in late August. Keith *et al.* (1992) give no breeding data for Congo.

PLAIN-BACKED PIPIT *Anthus leucophrys*

Breeding data: in Katanga, a juvenile was obtained in February 1966 in the Kundelungu Highlands, and immatures were collected in March 1926 at Kabalo and on 23 November 1950 at Kasaji. In the Kasai, worn juveniles were obtained on 18 July 1944 at Merode-Dibaya, West Kasai, and on 30 October 1954 at Kasansa, East Kasai. An immature male was secured on 24 January 1952 at Gandajika, East Kasai. All these are in RMCA and are of the subspecies *bohndorffi*. For comparison, Lynes (1938) collected eight adults and eight immatures in August–March, in the southern Congo basin, but it is difficult to establish which months these birds were breeding when Lynes states that it is ‘in the latter part of the dry-season’. In northern Congo, where *A. l. zenkeri* is common, fully fledged young were collected in the early part of the rains, on 14 April, 6 May and 29 June (Chapin 1953). Additional data from RMCA complete the picture: in Oriental province, three juveniles and an immature obtained: on 22 March 1951 in Garamba NP (immature), 20 April 1944 at Gangala-na-Bodio, 3 June 1925 at Djalasinda and 12 July 1925 at Faradje. In Equateur, Maes collected a juvenile on 11 November 1957 at Bwamanda, and this date may indicate another breeding period. Keith *et al.* (1992) do not mention laying dates nor breeding period for the country.

LONG-LEGGED PIPIT *Anthus pallidiventris*

A male pipit collected by Prigogine at Namoya (altitude 640 m), South Kivu, on 19 August 1960 and identified and labelled by Schouteden as *A. leucophrys turneri* (RMCA 107340) has emarginated outer webs to four outer primaries (2–5), indicating it is a Long-legged Pipit. This is the first record for Kivu, 1,120 km east-southeast of Mbandaka, the main range of the species. According to Keith *et al.* (1992) laying dates are probably May–July, at the end of the rains, but this period was attributed by Chapin (1953) to *A. p. esobe*. Two worn juvenile males from the Bolobo area, Bandundu, of the same subspecies, were obtained on 20 August 1959 and 23 November 1951, whilst five immatures from this area were secured in

January–May and one in early August. An immature and juvenile *A. p. pallidiventris* were collected at Moanda, Bas-Congo, on 22 August 1920 and 15 November 1945 respectively (all in RMCA).

RED-THROATED PIPIT *Anthus cervinus*

The correct date for the specimen from Buta, Oriental province, a male in worn condition, is 4 June 1940 (Schouteden 1963a), not May (Chapin 1953). Most other records are from North Kivu (Schouteden 1969, Lippens & Wille 1976), but there is one for Equateur: at Bili, on 1 December 1989 (Dejaifve 1990).

RED-SHOULDERED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Campephaga phoenicea*

According to Keith *et al.* (1992) the nestling is unknown, and status in DR Congo is not specified. RMCA possesses a feathered nestling of c.1 week old (RMCA 16217), taken at Medje, Oriental province, on 25 August 1925. The remaining down is extremely pale grey. Chapin (1953), who collected 11 in Haut-Uele, found individuals with enlarged gonads in February–April (two males, one female) but no nests. Based on five juveniles obtained in the same area (28 July, 29 July, 24 August, 25 November, 11 December: all in RMCA) the egg-laying period is June–July and October–November. In Ubangi and Mongala districts, Equateur, the species was noted early November–early April (seven skins RMCA; Schouteden 1962, Maes 1988, Dejaifve 1990), and in Bas-Uele, Haut-Uele and Ituri districts, Oriental province, birds were recorded year-round (28 records November–April; 20 records May–October) (Vrydagh 1949, Schouteden 1963a,b).

FOREST ROBIN *Stiphrornis erythrothorax*

Keith *et al.* (1992) quote weights (15–17 g) of unsexed birds from Uganda. I obtained four males weighing 15–22 (18.0) and three females weighing 15, 20 and 24 (19.7) g.

SNOWY-HEADED ROBIN CHAT *Cossypha niveicapilla*

According to Chapin (1953) and Schouteden (1962, 1963a) this species occurs, in the west, in the Bas-Congo, and, further east, in Ubangi district, Equateur, and Oriental province. The gap along the Congo River is now filled by three specimens from the Mbandaka area, Equateur (all in RMCA): an immature male and adult female taken at Ikengo in May 1954, and an adult male (weight 43 g) obtained at Mbandaka in late November 1959.

WHINCHAT *Saxicola rubetra*

The distribution map in Keith *et al.* (1992) leaves a blank for Equateur province and the central Congo basin despite several records in Schouteden (1961, 1962). The species arrives in the second half of October in southern Ubangi district (V. Maes *in litt.* 1993) and in early November at Basankusu and Mbandaka, Equateur district, where it winters in small numbers (pers. obs.). In Ubangi district it is common until

late April; according to Dejaifve (1994b) c.300,000 birds may occupy an estimated 400,000 ha of suitable habitat.

AFRICAN MOUSTACHED WARBLER *Melocichla mentalis*

Hall & Moreau (1970) mapped this warbler from the central forested Tshuapa district, Equateur, at 00°14'S, 20°50'E, which corresponds to Boende. This is a true savanna species and no specimen from that area could be located in RMCA nor in the The Natural History Museum, Tring (M. P. Adams *in litt.* 2001), suggesting that this locality is in error.

GREATER SWAMP WARBLER *Acrocephalus rufescens*

A nest, attached to three sorghum stems and containing two well-feathered young, was found at Bwamanda, Equateur, on 7 October 1974, near a rural habitation (V. Maes *in litt.* 1978). Urban *et al.* (1997) give no breeding data for Congo.

BLACK-NECKED CISTICOLA *Cisticola eximius*

According to Urban *et al.* (1997), this species only occurs in the savannas of Uele, Oriental province, but two males were collected in Ubangi district, Equateur (Schouteden 1955b, 1962), at Bosodula in October 1941 and at Bwamanda in April 1957. This species, which prefers short grassland (Maes 1988), is rare in Congo.

OLIVE-GREEN CAMAROPTERA *Camaroptera chloronota*

According to Urban *et al.* (1997) the entire forested area of the central Congo basin is occupied by this species, but specimens are lacking in RMCA.

LEMON-BELLIED CROMBEC *Sylvietta denti*

Urban *et al.* (1997) give no breeding data for Congo, despite Prigogine's (1971) statement that it breeds in January in South Kivu. Prigogine apparently did not take into account his own specimens of four immatures (all in RMCA) obtained late June, late July, early August and mid September. The breeding period in Kivu thus probably extends into August. In Equateur province an immature was collected at Iyonda on 28 September 1951 (RMCA 58233).

COMMON CHIFFCHAFF *Phylloscopus collybita*

Püttger-Conradt (2002) reported two singing birds in Kinshasa-Limete in January 1989. This remarkable single-observer claim would constitute the southernmost Common Chiffchaff in Africa and is best treated as 'unconfirmed' pending further evidence. The only previous record from the country, at Luluabourg (now Kananga), West Kasai, on 20 April 1924, must be rejected as the specimen, reportedly deposited at the Museum d'Histoire naturelle, Geneva (de Schaeck 1927), cannot be traced (A. Cibois *in litt.* 2002).

COMMON WHITETHROAT *Sylvia communis*

Keith *et al.* (1997) map the occurrence of this warbler only for the north-east and south-east of the country despite two specimens being taken in February at Iyonda, Equateur (Schouteden 1961), and the ringing of nine individuals in November–March at Lovanium, near Kinshasa, by De Bont *et al.* (1965). At Iyonda, a third specimen was obtained on 6 December 1957 (RMCA), and Maes (1993) recorded it at Bokilio, Equateur, from 13 February to 2 April 1965.

WHITE-BROWED FOREST FLYCATCHER *Fraseria cinerascens*

Urban *et al.* (1997) only mention the occurrence of young birds in October (based on Chapin 1953). RMCA holds seven juveniles from three different areas: early March from Botanankasa, Bandundu, early March, late May and early June from Buta, Panga and Ibembo, Oriental province, and early August, the fourth week of October and December from Kasai.

GAMBAGA FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa gambagae*

Only known from extreme north-east DR Congo, in Oriental province: a male was collected in December at Aba (Chapin 1953) and three males were taken at Dramba on 18 April 1925 (Schouteden 1963b, not in February, as stated therein). One of these is a first-year (wing 55 mm, tail 26 mm), constituting the first breeding record for DR Congo.

ASHY FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa caerulescens*

Urban *et al.* (1997) mention only November as a breeding month for DR Congo, but Prigogine (1971) notes February–June and September–October as egg-laying periods in Itombwe, South Kivu. Four immatures were taken there in late November–late March. In West Kasai, a juvenile was obtained late September, and in Katanga, three juveniles were secured at Kasaji on 12 October, 12 November and 16 December (RMCA). Verheyen (1953) listed six juveniles as taken in Upemba NP, Katanga, in September–November (3), February (1) and late July (2).

OLIVACEOUS FLYCATCHER *Muscicapa olivascens*

RMCA holds three juveniles: one collected mid February at Nkone, Equateur, and two others from Kailo, Maniema, obtained mid July and mid September. According to Chapin (1953) and Urban *et al.* (1997) males are in breeding condition in May.

LEAD-COLOURED FLYCATCHER *Myioparus plumbeus*

Occurrence in the central Congo basin north and south of the Congo River is not mapped in Urban *et al.* (1997). In Equateur province, six specimens were obtained in Ubangi and five others in Tshuapa district (Schouteden 1961, 1962), and I recorded it in October–December 1954, at Bokeka, Basankusu district.

PIED FLYCATCHER *Ficedula hypoleuca*

Vrydagh (1949) collected two specimens, on 23 and 26 March 1942, at Mont Mé, Ituri, Oriental province. These constitute the first proof of the species' occurrence in DR Congo. This flycatcher may also reach northern Ubangi district, Equateur, as a specimen was collected at Bangui, Central African Republic, in November 1970 (Germain & Cornet 1994). Lippens & Wille (1976), based on a ringing report by Dupond (1940), erroneously mentioned a capture north of Mbuji Mayi, East Kasai, in 1939. The bird was a Spotted Flycatcher *Muscicapa striata*, ringed on 4 July 1938 in Sweden and captured 95 km north-west of Mbuji Mayi (at 04°10'S, 22°50'E), in spring 1939 (letter dated 23 May 1939). This error was corrected by Rendahl & Vestergren (1960), and reported by Zink (1985).

RUFOUS-VENTED PARADISE FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone rufocinerea*

In Urban *et al.* (1997) single records are listed from Kamaiembi, West Kasai, and 'Ngombi on middle Congo River'. The correct locality of the latter is Ngombe Lutete, Bas-Congo, where a young bird was obtained by Bohndorff (Chapin 1953).

WHITE-SPOTTED WATTLE-EYE *Dyaphorophya tonsa*

Cited in Urban *et al.* (1997) from Salonga NP, but according to Schouteden (1962) it was collected at Bolafa, Equateur, on the Lopori River.

WHITE-FRONTED WATTLE-EYE *Platysteira albifrons*

Stated to occur in the south-west by Lippens & Wille (1976), and thus also listed by Dowsett (1993). Reichenow (1905) mentions it for the 'Congo region', Sclater (1930) states that it occurs north to the Congo, at 'Ngombi', which was repeated by Bannerman (1936). However, Chapin (1953) expressed doubts concerning its occurrence on the Congo River, stating 'All the specimens taken by Bohndorff at Ngombe Lutete that I have seen are *P. cyanea nyansae*'. The Berlin museum holds a young bird collected by Bohndorff in August at Ngombe, Bas-Congo, which was initially labelled *albifrons*, but was subsequently reidentified as *P. cyanea nyansae* (J. Fiebig *in litt.* 2002). As there are no other records of *P. albifrons* from DR Congo, the species should be removed from the country's list.

SUPERB SUNBIRD *Cinnyris superba*

Weights in 17 males 18–24 (21.5) and in four females 16–20 (18.5) g. Stomach contents: a spider, a berry, a snail, insects, beetles, nectar, seeds, ants, and seeds of the tree *Xylopia aethiopica*.

SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO *Dicrurus ludwigii sharpei*

Schouteden (1962) and Dejaifve (1990, 1994) list this species for Ubangi district, Equateur, based on one obtained by Alexander on Luma (Louma) Island, incorrectly situated in 'territoire Banzyville'. According to M. P. Adams (*in litt.* 2001) the bird

is a male collected on 20 November 1905 from the right bank of the Ubangi River near Luma Island (04°35'N, 20°29'E), in the Central African Republic. There are no specimens in RMCA from Uele and Ubangi, but V. Maes (*in litt.* 1962) recorded a drongo at Bwamanda, Ubangi district, in 1960 (no date) and on 15 January 1962. In his notes the bird is described as 'having a square tail and no gloss on the upperparts and it was recorded in the forest', but these details are insufficient to accept Square-tailed Drongo as occurring in Ubangi district. Maes probably saw a Shining Drongo *D. atripennis*, but this species' presence is not proven by a specimen either (Schouteden 1962).

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Address: Mensenrechtenlaan 22, B-1070 Anderlecht, Belgium, e-mail: paul.herroelen@tiscali.be

Gazetteer

Locality*	Province	Coordinates
Aba (Ituri)	Prov. Orientale	03°53'N, 30°16'E
Angodia (Bas-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	02°32'N, 25°47'E

Aru, camp (Haut-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	02°53'N, 30°51'E
Bambesa (Bas-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	03°28'N, 25°44'E
Banana	Bas-Congo	05°58'S, 12°27'E
Banzyville (Ubangi)	Equateur	04°18'N, 21°12'E
Basankusu (Equateur)	Equateur	01°12'N, 19°50'E
Bili (Ubangi)	Equateur	04°34'N, 19°43'E
Bobito (Ubangi)	Equateur	02°57'N, 19°25'E
Boende (Tshuapa)	Equateur	00°15'S, 20°51'E
Bokeka (Equateur)	Equateur	00°41'N, 19°57'E
Bokilio (Ubangi)	Equateur	03°46'N, 19°03'E
Bokote (Equateur)	Equateur	00°05'S, 20°08'E
Bokungu (Tshuapa)	Equateur	00°45'S, 22°25'E
Bolafa (Tshuapa)	Equateur	01°25'N, 22°05'E
Bolobo (Mai-Ndombe)	Bandundu	02°10'S, 16°17'E
Bosodula (Ubangi)	Equateur	04°32'N, 20°16'E
Botanankasa (Lac Leopold II)	Bandundu	02°16'S, 16°15'E
Buta (Bas-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	02°49'N, 24°50'E
Butembo	Nord-Kivu	00°09'N, 29°17'E
Bwamanda (Ubangi)	Equateur	03°10'N, 19°15'E
Cul de Boma	Bas-Congo	05°52'S, 12°59'E
Djalasinda (Ituri)	Prov. Orientale	02°10'N, 30°53'E
Dramba (Haut-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	03°40'N, 30°25'E
Eala (Equateur)	Equateur	00°02'N, 18°22'E
Edward, lake	Nord-Kivu	c.00°23'S, 29°36'E
Faradje (Haut-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	03°45'N, 29°43'E
Feshi (Kwango)	Bandundu	06°08'S, 18°12'E
Gandajika (Kabinda)	Kasaï Oriental	06°46'S, 23°58'E
Gangala-na-Bodio (Haut-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	03°41'N, 29°08'E
Garamba NP	Prov. Orientale	c.04°13'N, 29°24'E
Gemena (Ubangi)	Equateur	03°13'N, 19°48'E
Ibembo (Bas-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	02°36'N, 23°40'E
Ikenge (Equateur)	Equateur	00°06'S, 18°46'E
Ikenge (Equateur)	Equateur	00°10'S, 18°10'E
Isangi (Stanleyville)	Prov. Orientale	00°48'N, 24°10'E
Isenga (Tshuapa)	Equateur	00°10'N, 19°14'E
Ishwa Plain (Ituri)	Prov. Orientale	02°12'N, 31°10'E
Itombwe	Sud-Kivu	c.03°30'S, 18°55'E
Itula	Sud-Kivu	03°30'S, 27°50'E
Iyonda (Equateur)	Equateur	00°01'N, 18°13'E
Kabalo (Tanganika)	Katanga	06°02'S, 26°55'E
Kabinda (Kabinda)	Kasaï Oriental	06°10'S, 24°29'E
Kabongo	Katanga	07°53'S, 27°01'E
Kailo	Maniema	02°38'S, 26°07'E
Kamaiembi (Kasaï)	Kasaï Occidental	05°25'S, 21°17'E
Kananga (Lulua)	Kasaï Occidental	05°53'S, 22°26'E
Kasaji	Katanga	10°22'S, 23°29'E
Kasalia, Ishasha Plain	Nord-Kivu	00°45'S, 29°37'E
Kasansa (Kabinda)	Kasaï Oriental	06°33'S, 23°44'E
Kasapa	Katanga	05°25'S, 21°17'E

Kiambi	Katanga	07°20'S, 28°01'E
Kindu-port	Maniema	02°41'S, 25°08'E
Kinshasa	Kinshasa	04°18'S, 15°18'E
Kisangani (Stanleyville)	Prov. Orientale	00°33'N, 25°14'E
Kitona	Bas-Congo	05°58'S, 12°28'E
Kolwezi	Katanga	10°45'S, 25°25'E
Kouango (Ubangi)	Equateur	04°58'N, 19°58'E
Kundelungu Highlands	Katanga	c.10°00'S, 27°50'E
Liboli (Ubangi)	Equateur	02°50'N, 21°20'E
Lisafa (Equateur)	Equateur	01°07'N, 19°45'E
Lovanium	Bas-Congo	04°15'S, 15°20'E
Lukolela (Equateur)	Equateur	01°10'S, 17°11'E
Lutunguru	Nord-Kivu	00°29'S, 28°47'E
Macaco (Kasaï)	Kasaï Occidental	05°28'S, 21°10'E
Matadi	Bas-Congo	05°50'S, 13°32'E
Mateba Island	Bas-Congo	c.05°55'S, 12°54'E
Mbandaka (Equateur)	Equateur	00°03'N, 18°28'E
Mbomo (Mai-Ndombe)	Bandundu	02°20'S, 16°20'E
Mbuji Mayi (Kabinda)	Kasaï Oriental	06°10'S, 23°39'E
Medje (Haut-Uele)	Prov. Orientale	02°25'N, 27°18'E
Merode-Dibaya (Lulua)	Kasaï Occidental	06°17'S, 23°13'E
Moanda (=Muanda)	Bas-Congo	05°55'S, 12°21'E
Mt Mé (Ituri)	Prov. Orientale	02°16'N, 30°57'E
Mwenga	Sud-Kivu	03°00'S, 28°28'E
Namoya	Sud-Kivu	04°01'S, 27°36'E
Ngombe Lutete	Bas-Congo	04°58'S, 14°41'E
Nkone (Tshuapa)	Equateur	01°00'N, 22°15'E
Panga (Stanleyville)	Prov. Orientale	01°52'N, 26°23'E
Rusizi delta, marshes	Sud-Kivu	c.03°18'S, 29°15'E
Sanghi-Rusizi	Sud-Kivu	03°04'S, 29°14'E
Umangi (Mongala)	Equateur	02°05'N, 21°27'E
Upemba NP	Katanga	c.09°10'S, 29°22'E
Vitshumbi, Virunga NP	Nord-Kivu	00°41'S, 29°21'E
Yangala (Equateur)	Equateur	00°08'S, 18°08'E

*District (administrative division of the province before 1961) in parentheses.

Provinces in DR Congo: Bandundu, Bas-Congo (Lower Congo), Equateur, Kasaï Occidental (West Kasaï), Kasaï Oriental (East Kasaï), Katanga (formerly Shaba), Nord-Kivu (North Kivu), Sud-Kivu (South Kivu), Maniema, Prov. Orientale (Oriental province; formerly Haut-Zaïre).

The capital Kinshasa and its immediate surroundings form a separate administrative unit.